

Islamic State, Radicalization and Home Grown Violent Extremists

IS, Radicalization and HVEs

Presentation Agenda

- A brief overview of ISIL
- Indicators of Radicalization
- How an individual becomes Radicalized
- Recognize suspicious activity
- The Threats of an HVE

IS-Background and History

- IS is a Sunni jihadist group known by many names
 - the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS)
 - the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL)
 - the Islamic State (IS)
 - Da'esh
- A previous incarnation of IS, al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI), was the Iraq-based branch of al-Qa'ida (AQ)
- AQ cut ties with IS in February 2014
- IS established the Caliphate in June 2014
- IS competes with AQ for support/allegiance of jihadists and terrorist groups

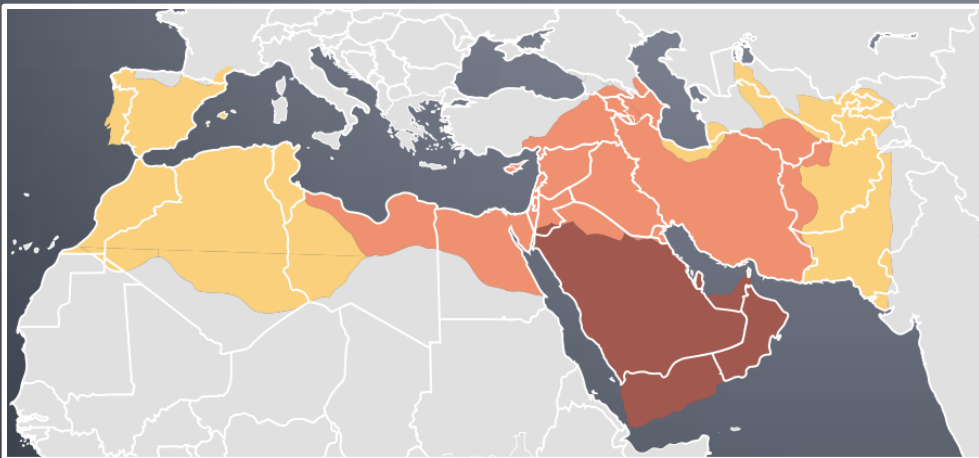
IS-Background and History

Multiple factors allowed ISIL to rise to prominence

- Regional power vacuums
 - Syrian Civil War, ensuing chaos and foreign fighters
 - Withdraw of US troops from Iraq
- Jihadist power vacuums
 - Death of Bin Laden
 - Diminished capacity of core Al-Qaeda
- New strategy
 - Acquisition of territory, resources
 - Establishing the Caliphate – a state, bureaucracy
- Old grievances

IS-Goals

- Original goal
 - Establish an Islamic State in the majority Sunni areas of Iraq
- Current goals
 - Enlarge the Caliphate
 - Use their territory to target the US and the West



IS-Appeal to Westerners

ISIL's goals translate into a two part appeal to Westerners

- ISIL instructs its supporters to travel to join the Islamic State.
 - Specifically attempts to recruit
 - Fighters with military experience
 - Administrators
 - Doctors
 - Engineers
 - Women
- If a supporter can not travel, ISIL instructs them to carry out lone wolf attacks in the West.

IS-Calls for Attacks in the US

Beginning in September 2014, ISIL has instructed sympathizers to conduct violent attacks against Americans in the US.

- ISIL conducted violent acts against US persons and US interests overseas, but had not previously called for violent activity in the US.
- ISIL had previously sought to entice supporters to join them in Iraq and Syria.
- ISIL specifically calls for attacks on US Military, Law Enforcement, intelligence personnel and their “agents.”
- ISIL instructs supporters in the US to act as lone wolves.

IS-Calls for Attacks in the US

- “Do not ask for anyone’s advice and do not seek anyone’s verdict.”
- “Kill any disbeliever whether he is civilian or military... whether he be French, American or from any of their allies.”
- “Do not let this battle pass you by wherever you may be. You must strike the soldiers, patrons, and troops of the tawaghit. Strike their police, security and intelligence members, as well as their treacherous agents. Destroy their beds.”
- “Smash his head with a rock, or slaughter him with a knife, or run him over with your car or throw him down from a high place, or choke him, or poison him.”

IS-Appeal to Westerners

Three main factors account for the appeal of ISIL

- Establishment of the Caliphate
 - Projects religious and political authority
 - Fulfills hopes
- Continued Growth
 - Demonstrates success
 - Obtains resources
- Effective Propaganda
 - Communicates tailored messaging
 - Utilizes dynamic, varied media

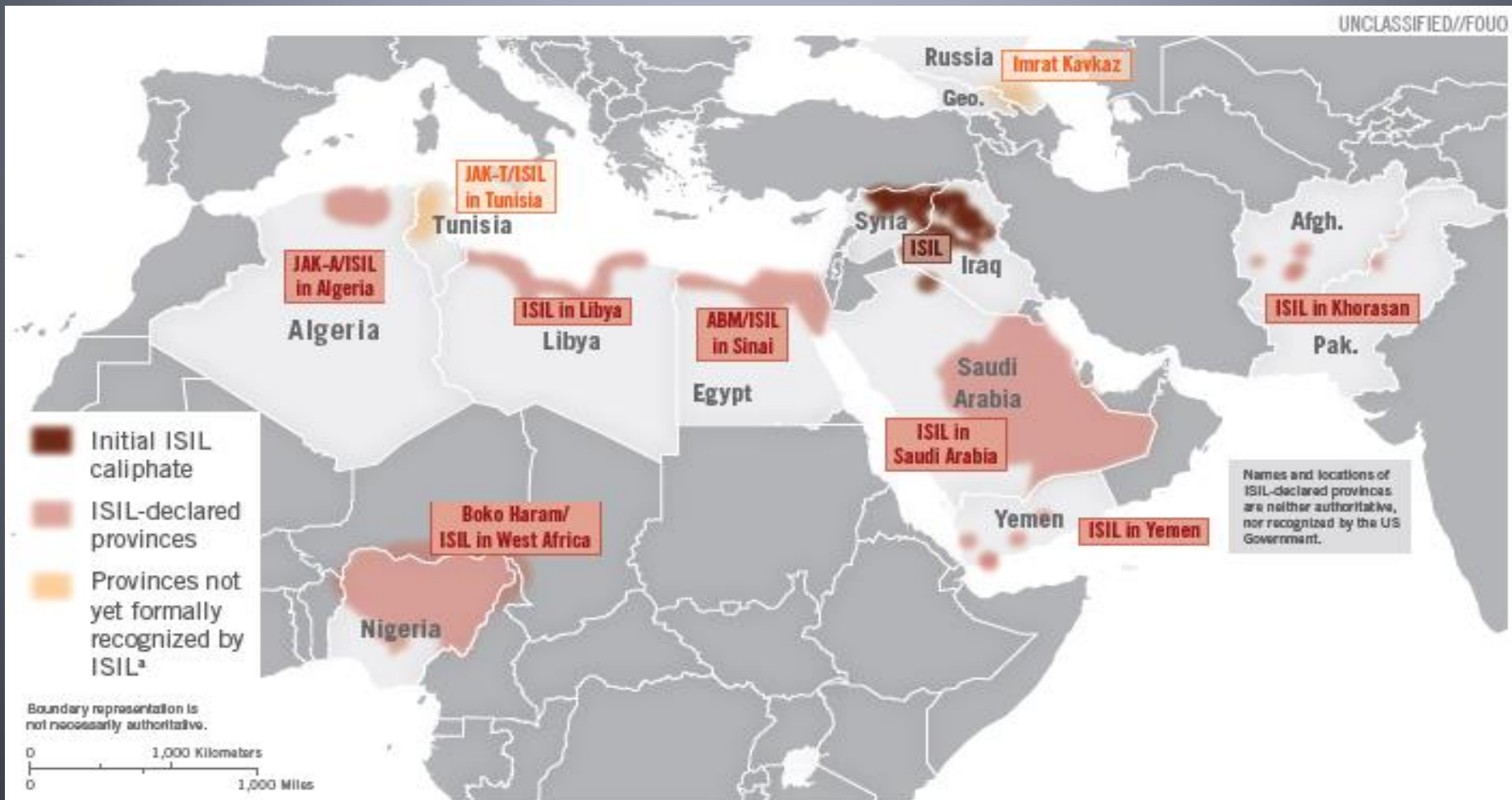
IS-Growth

ISIL rapidly increased personnel and resources in 2014 and now controls large portions of Iraq and Syria.

- ISIL generates approximately \$1M daily from black market oil sales, extortion, ransoms and robberies.
- ISIL has recruited more than 25K foreign fighters to Syria.



IS-Growth



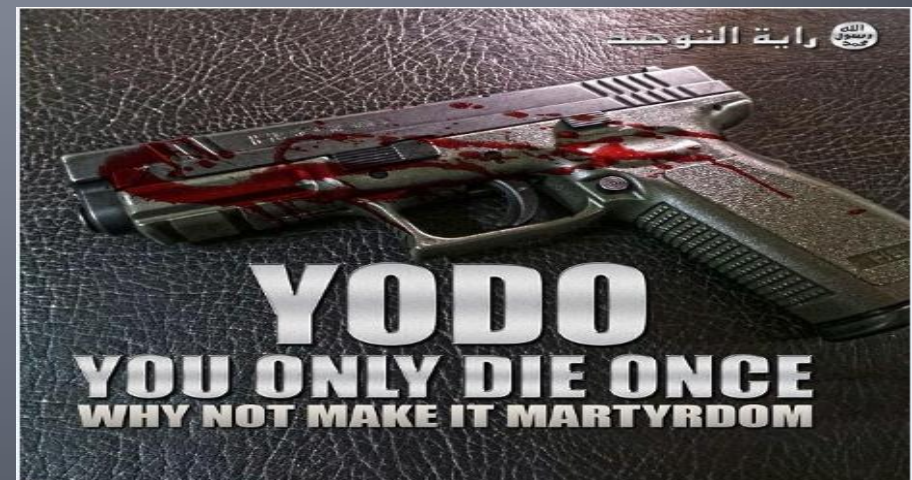
(U//FOUO) This map does not include other areas with groups reported to have pledged allegiance to ISIL because we have not seen any indications in ISIL media that ISIL plans to recognize "provinces" in those locations.

IS-Propaganda

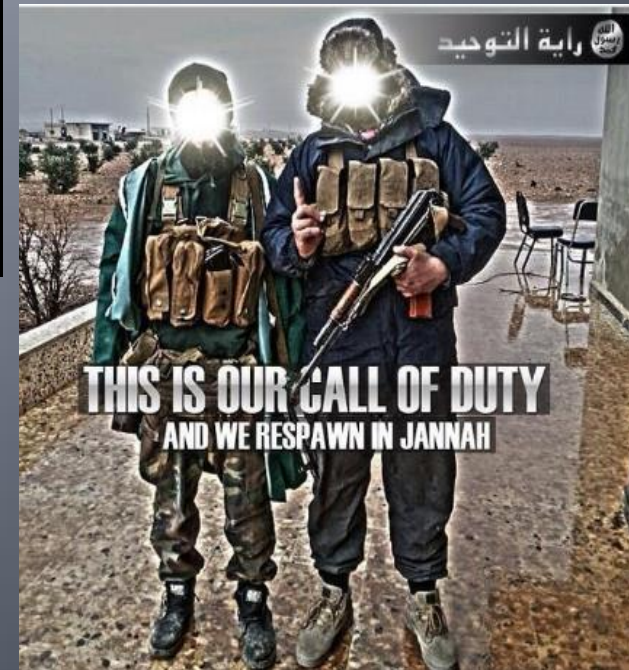
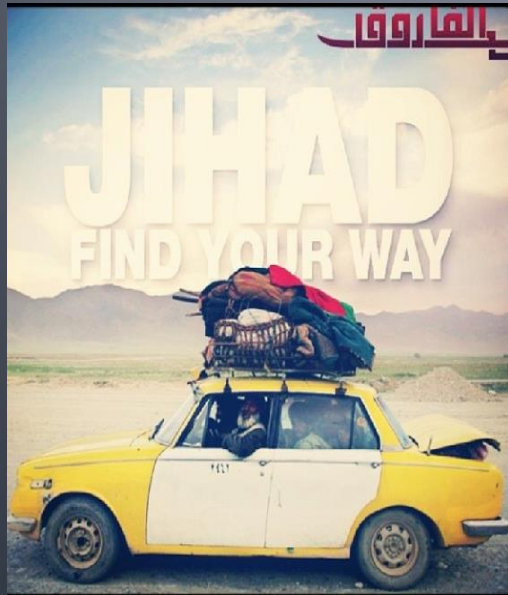
ISIL is noted for its timely and effective propaganda

- Prolific and savvy use of social media and telephone apps.

IS-Propaganda



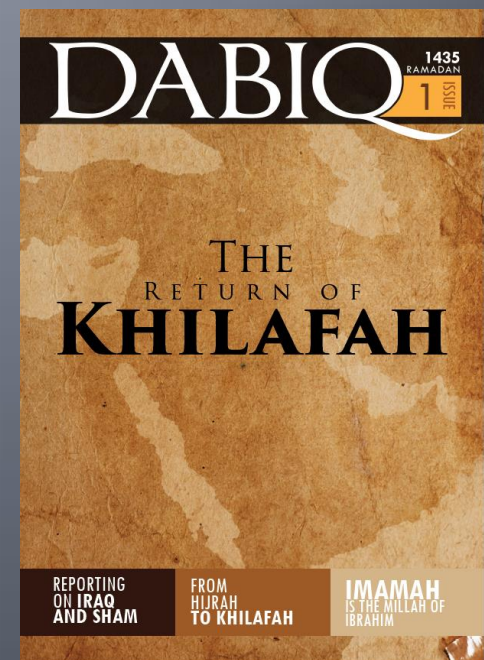
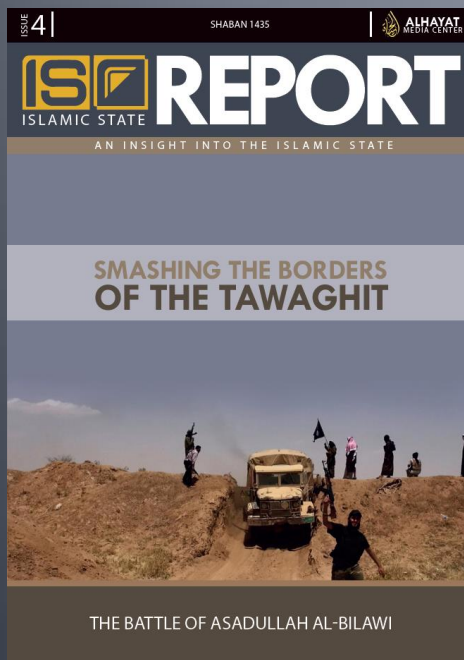
IS-Propaganda



IS-Propaganda

ISIL is noted for its high-quality media

- Videos
- Online publications



IS-Twitter



IS-Twitter



AbuHussainAlBritani

@AbuHus5ain_911



Follow

Soon the streets of the west will hear the roars of the lions of the Islamic state!



RETWEETS
8

FAVORITES
14



1:47 PM - 4 Jun 2015



AbuHussainAlBritani

@AbuHussain911



Whats your little handguns going to do against an IED that sprays 3000+ ball bearings faster than the speed of sound? #Phoenix #AZ



UmmHussainAlBritani

@UmmHussain101

Follow

"Fight and kill the disbelievers, take them captive, harass them, lie in wait and ambush them using every stratagem of war." Qur'an 9:5

3:16 PM - 29 Aug 2014

26 RETWEETS 6 FAVORITES



U.S. Central Command

@CENTCOM

Follow

AMERICAN SOLDIERS,
WE ARE COMING, WATCH YOUR BACK. ISIS.

pastebin.com/Y2spP7y9

#CyberCaliphate

12:29 PM - 12 Jan 2015

69 RETWEETS 9 FAVORITES



IS-Twitter



Abu Khalid Al-Amriki
@Irhabi_Amriki

Many are those who have chosen to live in order to die, as for me I have chosen death as a way to Live.

📍 Iraq, Fallujah

TWEETS 26 FOLLOWING 16 FOLLOWERS 718 FAVORITES 58

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 **Abu Khalid Al-Amriki** @Irhabi_Amriki · 6h
Now who say we couldn't use Twitter to incite the believers to do attacks in the west?

A lot more coming bi'dnillah azza wa jal


 **Abu Khaled Al Amriki** @AbuKhaledAlAmriki

Abu Khaled Al Amriki got Shahada today
May Allah accept him and raise his ranks in Jannah

 **Abu Asma' Al-Amriki**
@aI_amriki7956

Keep your faith in your brothers on the the ground. Do your part and don't underestimate what you can do!



RETWEETS 4 LIKES 7

8:56 PM - 8 Nov 2015

 **Abu Khalid Al-Amriki** @Irhabi 808 · Mar 25

How to sacrifice a car for the sake of Allah Two tanks of cooking gas place on back seat. park in front of police station. And light a fire.



Lessons from IS-Linked Attacks

- Operational models, targets and tactics vary
- Extensive planning, travel or training is not required
- Attacks followed through on threats against specific targets
- HVEs typically targeted law enforcement and military personnel
- Attacks may be conducted by known operatives
- New frameworks for analyzing attacks might be necessary

Attacks-Inspired, Networked & Directed

Terror attacks occur across a spectrum but can be described using three categories – inspired, networked and directed.

- Directed
 - Planned and conducted by foreign entities
 - Very infrequent
 - Complex
 - Highly capable, most dangerous
 - High profile, often symbolic targets
 - Examples: 9/11, Mumbai
 - Associated with core AQ, AQAP, Khorasan Group

Attacks-Inspired, Networked & Directed

- Networked/Enabled
 - Less frequent, emerging
 - Mixed or shifting allegiances of attackers
 - Utilizes training or guidance
 - Varying capability powered by jihadi conflicts and networks
 - Examples: Charlie Hebdo and Paris kosher market attack, Brussels Jewish Museum attack
- Inspired
 - Most frequent
 - Typically simple
 - Lower capability but still dangerous
 - Examples: Ottawa attacks, Sydney Hostage situation

IS-Inspired Attacks in North America

- 10/20/14 - Radicalized Islamic convert Martin Couture-Rouleau attacks two Canadian soldiers with his car killing one soldier before being shot and killed by police.
- 10/22/14 - Radicalized Islamic convert Michael Zehat-Bibeau kills a Canadian soldier at the National War Memorial in Ottawa and then fires many shots in Parliament before being shot and killed by the Sergeant at Arms.
- 10/23/14 - Islamic convert Zale Thompson charges at four NYPD officers with a hatchet before being shot and killed. Thompson was motivated by several ideologies including ISIL and Sunni extremist propaganda and Black Separatist extremism.

Inspired Attacks

- Inspired attacks are often simple
 - Lowers the bar
 - Removes barriers to entry
- Simple attacks can be carried out without
 - Technical skills
 - Training
 - Direct contact with extremists
 - Funding
 - Surveillance
 - Procurement
 - Coordination
 - Approval

Inspired Attacks

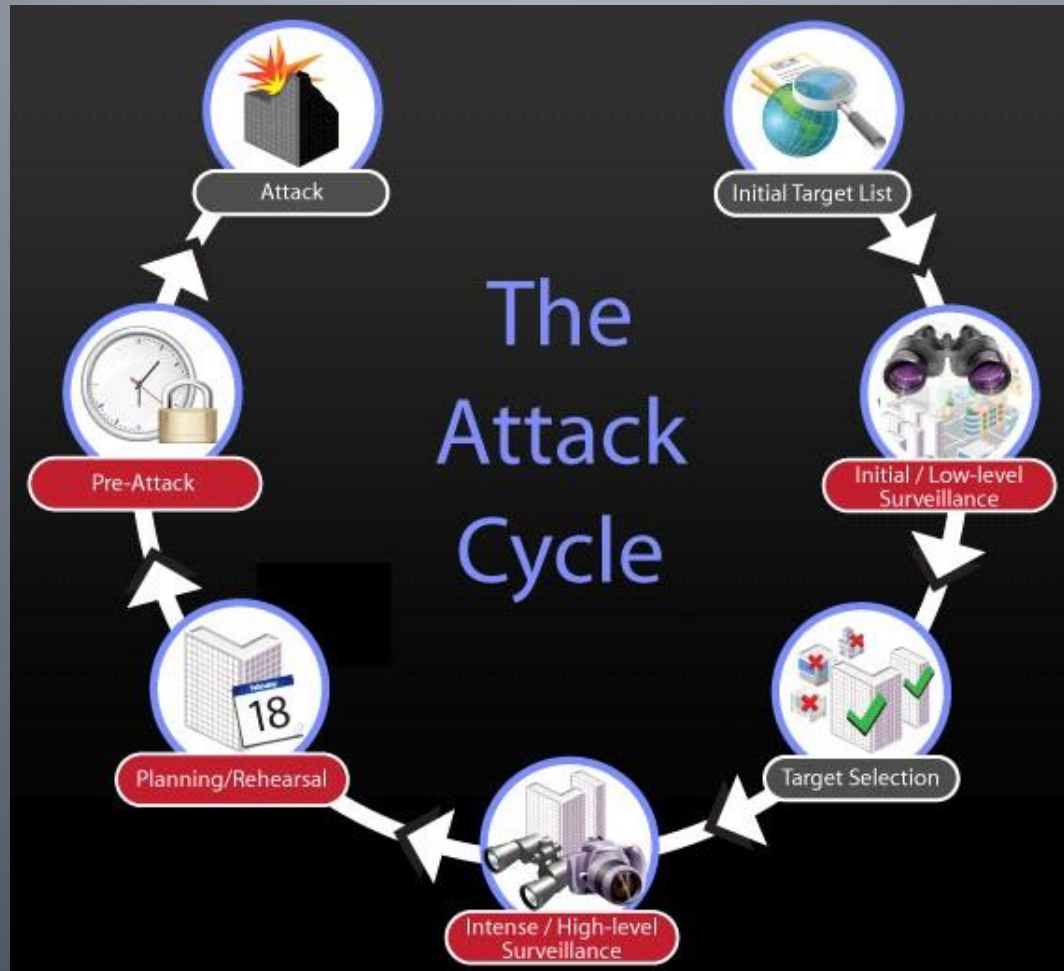
Simple attacks are more difficult to detect and disrupt

- Thwart law enforcement's attempts to
 - Follow the money
 - Monitor communications
 - Identify suspicious travel
 - Obtain HUMINT
- Expand the pool of actors, targets and methods

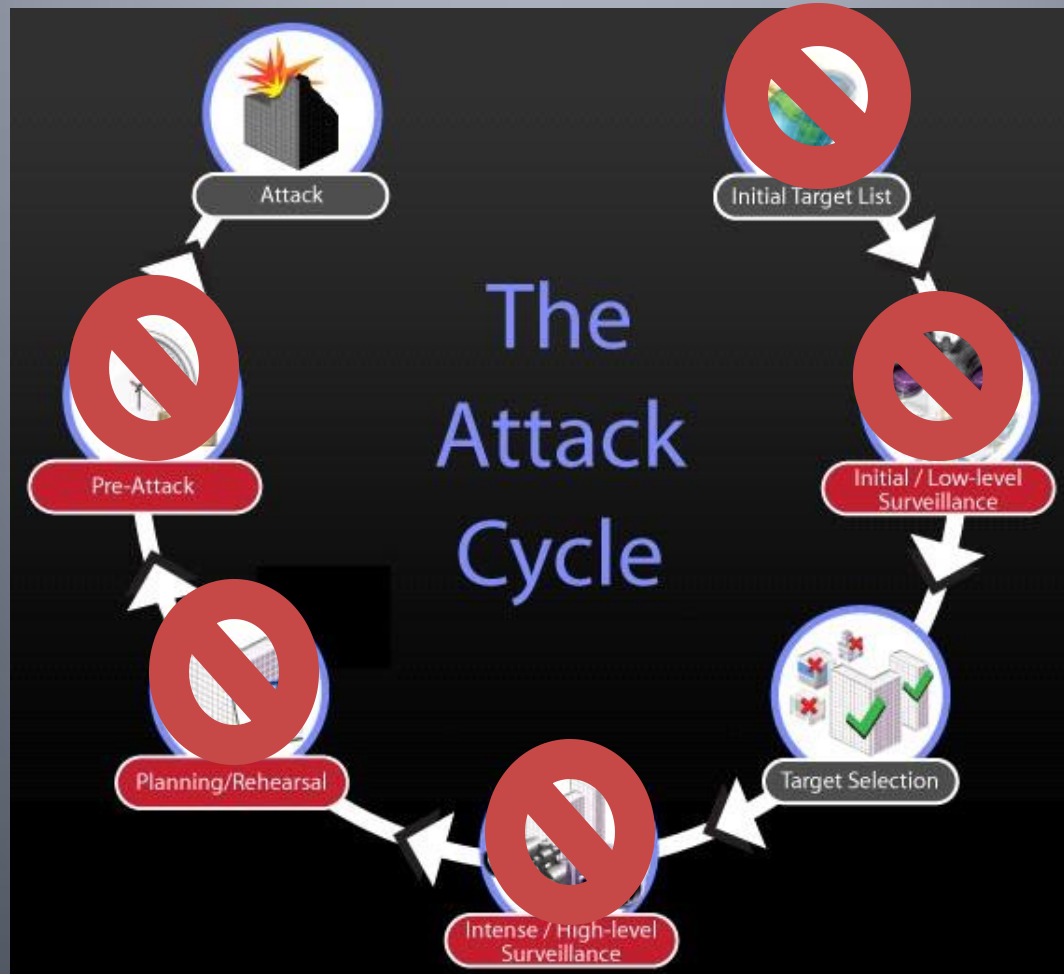
Simple attacks are still effective!

- Garland, TX is seen as a success for ISIL

Directed Attacks



Inspired Attacks



Homegrown Violent Extremists



HVEs-Definition

Criteria for Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs):

Advocates

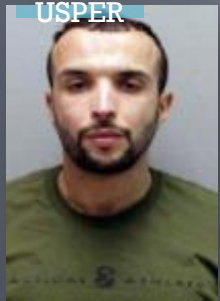
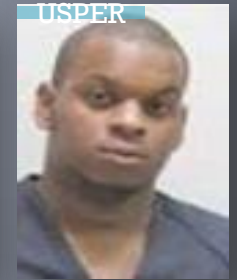
Provides support for

Engages in

Prepares to engage in

- Typically inspired, may be enabled, seldom directed
- Any nationality and/or citizenship
- Lives or operates primarily in the United States

HVEs



HVEs-Many Pathways to Violence

- There is no singular demographic group or characteristic
- There is no one personality type prone to adopting extremist views or exhibiting violent tendencies
- There is no singular path that leaves an individual vulnerable to radicalization
- There are no unique behavioral changes for those who mobilize to violence

HVEs-Radicalization and Mobilization

Radicalization = Belief that violence is necessary and justified

Mobilization = Active support or engagement in violence

Radicalization for each HVE depends on multiple factors:

- Psychological/personal factors
 - Adventure
 - Revenge
 - Power
 - Purpose
 - Search for belonging
 - Other enticements

HVEs-Radicalization and Mobilization

- Ideological factors
 - Religious duty
 - Political aim
- Situational/sociopolitical factors
 - Economic and political grievances
 - Official corruption
 - Repression, persecution or discrimination

Mobilization is triggered by a perceived immediate threat, crisis or dramatic event

- Establishment of the Caliphate
- Current fighting/killing of Muslims

HVEs-Radicalization and Mobilization

HVEs more difficult to detect in current threat environment

- Radicalization is primarily happening online
 - Not geographically limited
 - Can happen quickly, anonymously
- Mobilization

HVEs-Reporting Suspicious Activity

- The FBI is concerned that Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs) may:
 - Conduct violence in the US on ISIL's behalf
 - Travel to join ISIL or other extremist groups
- The FBI encourages US Government employees and contractors, military, and law enforcement personnel to:
 - Remain vigilant
 - Be surveillance conscious
 - Identify mobilization indicators
 - Report suspicious activities

HVEs-Possible Indicators of Attack Planning

- Advocating violence
- Attempting to convince others that violence is religiously sanctioned
- Sharing media or websites glorifying or encouraging violence
- Communicating with known or suspected extremists
- Segregating from family or normal peer groups

HVEs-Possible Indicators of Attack Planning

- Participating in weapons training or paramilitary exercises, reconnaissance or surveillance
- Acquiring suspicious quantities of weapons, ammunition, or materials that could be used to produce explosives
- Expressing unusual interest in security measures, such as alarms, locks and cameras
- Attempting to access rooftops or other unauthorized and/or sensitive areas

HVEs - Possible Indicators of Travel to Join Extremists

- Indicating support for terrorists, insurgents or other extremists
- Expressing the desire to travel to support violent extremist groups
- Posting information online encouraging violence in conflict zones
- Sharing media calling for Westerners to become foreign fighters
- Separating from groups that call for restraint or non-violence
- Removing from religious communities due to extremist views

HVEs - Possible Indicators of Travel to Join Extremists

- Communicating online with foreign fighters or violent extremists
- Seeking advice on travelling to active conflict zones
- Studying maps of the Levant or inquiring about travel to that area
- Participating in weapons training or paramilitary exercises
- Deleting hard drives or profiles prior to conflict zone travel
- Giving away or selling possessions prior to conflict zone travel

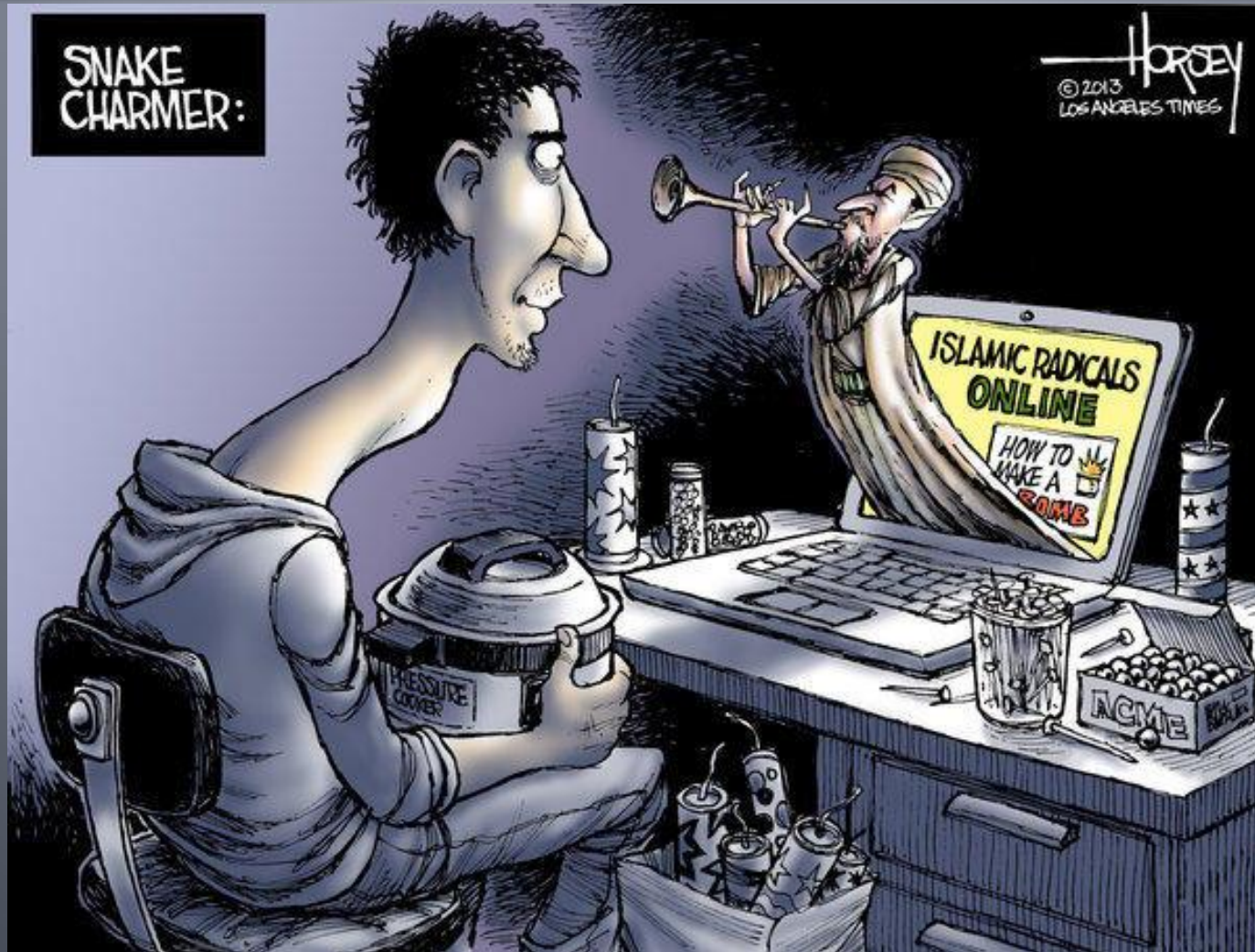
HVE - Bystander Observations

- More than 80% of cases had at least one bystander with knowledge of person of concern's violent intentions or extremist views
- More than 50% of these bystanders
 - Discounted or downplayed their observations
 - Made no attempt to intervene
- Bystanders failed to report concerning activity because they wanted to avoid
 - Appearing alarmist
 - Slandering a potentially innocent person
 - Causing authorities to overreact

HVEs-Most Common Indicators

- Communication with or links to extremists
- Consumption or sharing of jihadist videos/propaganda
- Pursuit of religious instruction from person of interest
- Suspicious foreign travel—based on destination
- Expressed approval or intent to conduct violent jihad
- Weapons training; paramilitary exercises; acquisition of gear, surveillance

Radicalization



Radicalization-Definition

- The FBI defines homegrown Islamic extremists as U.S. persons who appeared to have assimilated, but reject the cultural values, beliefs, and environment of the United States. They identify themselves as Muslims and on some level become radicalized in the United States. They intend to provide support for, or directly commit, a terrorist attack inside the United States.


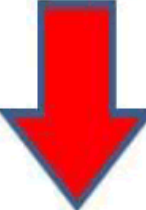
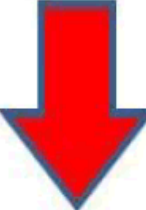
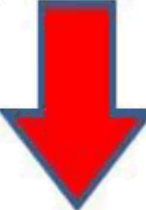
Radicalization-Indicators

- Isolation relationship with family
- Name changes to one that is aligned with an ideology.
- Change in physical appearance.
 - Dress
 - Growing/cutting hair
 - Removing tattoos
 - Wearing symbolic jewelry.

Radicalization-Indicators

- Change in social affiliations.
- Adherence to extremist religious doctrine and/or political affiliation.
- Expressed perception that other threaten the individual and his/her new-found beliefs or religion.
- Vocalized concern with policies affecting their new ideology.

Radicalization

PRERADICALIZATION	IDENTIFICATION	INDOCTRINATION	ACTION
<u>Motivation/Conversion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Jilted Believer · Acceptance Seeker · Protest Conversion · Belief Reinterpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Individual accepts the cause · Increased isolation from former life · Begin to accept new social identity 	Individual is convinced that action is required to support the cause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Immersion into a Group · Social Terrorist · Strengthening Social Identity · Increased Vetting Opportunities · Training Camp · Surveillance Activity · Finance 	Individual knowingly engages in extremist activity <u>Operational Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Facilitation · Recruitment · Financing · Attacks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Preparation · Planning · Execution
<u>Stimulus</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Self · Other 	<u>Key Component</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Overseas Experience · Ideological Training · Basic Paramilitary Training 		
<u>Opportunity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mosque/Church · Internet · School · Employment 			
			
CONVERSION REINTERPRETATION	ACCEPTANCE	CONVICTION	TERRORISM
NO ACTION	PROPENSITY FOR ACTION	READY FOR ACTION	ACTION

Questions?

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